Editor's Notes: A Milestone

Glen GoodKnight

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Additional Keywords
Sarah Beach
A pleasure is full grown only when it is remembered...remembering is the last part of the pleasure...When you and I met, the meeting was over very shortly...Now it is growing something as we remember it.

— Hyoi to Ransom in Out of the Silent Planet by C.S. Lewis.

This passage reentered my consciousness a few days after I returned home from the 16th annual Mythopoeic Conference, which was held this last July in Wheaton, Illinois. It tapped the very natural human feeling of sadness after the conclusion of a very pleasurable, gratifying, and nearly magical experience. But beyond the sadness is a calm joy in knowing that one had participated in a truly memorable event. I know I am not alone in that feeling. I saw it shared by many there, and was told specifically by quite a number how glad they were that they had come and how they were enjoying themselves.

This year’s Conference was a long held vision that had become enfleshed at last in delightful and unexpected ways. By being the first annual Mythopoeic Conference held outside California (except the Nevada Conference of 1980), it went a long way toward dispelling the sometimes encountered misimpression that the Mythopoeic Society is centered in California. True, it originated there and much of the administration is handled there, but our membership is found all over the United States, and a number of other countries. There are more Society members east of the Mississippi than west of it. The time was long overdue for a Society Conference to be held in another geographical area. Until now only one thing was lacking: a dedicated hardworking local Committee to bring it into being. That is exactly what it takes. I have never been to a disappointing Society Conference. They are all golden and memorable, each in its own way, but this one rivaled them all. Credit goes to the Committee, headed by Diana Pavlac. Both the preparation and execution were carried off very well. Not that it functioned like a well-ordered machine. No, it was a very human kind of experience, one that left me with the calm exhilaration of walking on a high summit. The heightened awareness made the vistas so wide, the depth of appreciation of the human exchange so intense. Exaggeration, hyperbole, you say? Then I challenge you to come to a Society Conference and experience it yourself. Only then can you really understand. It is well worth the effort, preparation, and distance travelled to get there. We endeavor to keep Conference costs as low as possible; in turn those who are motivated to attend can save up if necessary.

The center of the Society is not in one geographical place. It is, like The Great Dance, found anywhere where the vision is shared in the hearts and imaginations of the people involved. This was clearly proved in 1985. Now a milestone has been passed. Now the example is set and the implicit challenge is given, that it can be done anywhere, with the determination of a group of local people. I am confident that in the future we will see other Mythopoeic Conferences in other geographical centers, while at the same time I do hope to see the magic of Wheaton again. We need to be positive and progressive, and why not? Eventually, onward to Oxford!

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New Address

The Society has a new mailing address: P.O. Box 6707, Altadena, Ca. 91001. Do not send any mail to the old Whittier box. Actually it is even better to write directly to the departments concerned. For addresses, see page 2.


Mythopoeic Core Reading List

Mythlore frequently publishes articles that presuppose the reader is already familiar with the works they discuss. This is natural, given the special nature of Mythlore. In order to assist some readers, the following is what might be considered a "core" mythopoeic reading list, containing the most well known and discussed works. Due to the many editions printed, only the title and original date of publication are given. Good reading!

J.R.R. Tolkien


C.S. Lewis

Out of the Silent Planet (1938); Perelandra (1943); That Hideous Strength (1945); The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (1950); Prince Caspian (1951); The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (1952); The Silver Chair (1953); The Horse and His Boy (1954); The Magician’s Nephew (1955); The Last Battle (1958); Till We Have Faces (1956).

Charles Williams

War in Heaven (1930); Many Dimensions (1931); The Place of the Lion (1931); The Greater Trumps (1932); Shadows of Ecstasy (1933); Descent into Hell (1937); All Hallow’s Eve (1945); Taliessin through Logres (1938); and The Region of the Summer Stars (1944) (printed together in 1954).

Mythopoeic Fantasy and Scholarship Awards 1986

In June of 1985 the Council of Stewards voted to open the selection of the Mythopoeic Scholarship Award, which hitherto was chosen by vote of the Stewards, to the membership of the Society. Eligibility requirements for nomination of books for the Scholarship Award and for serving on the selection committee are the same as for the Fantasy Award: you must be a member of the Society; for nominations, no more than five books, for serving on the committees you must state your willingness to read or reread all finalists. Members may nominate books for both awards, and may serve on both committees.

Criteria for book selection: for the Fantasy Award, a fantasy work published during 1984 that best exemplifies “the spirit of the Inklings.” A work reissued in paper during 1984 that had been published earlier may be nominated whether or not it had previously been nominated, as long as it did not make the finalists’ list. At the nominations level, and at the final level, a majority of “no award” votes (if the committee members feel none of the choices should receive the award) will require we make no award for the year. The scholarship award is given for a book on Tolkien, Lewis, and/or Williams that makes a significant contribution to Inklings scholarship.

Books published during 1983–5 are eligible for the award; books may be renominated.

Nominations for both awards, and for selection committee volunteers, should be sent to Christine Lowentroult, 1017 Seal Way, Seal Beach Ca. 90740, by FEBRUARY 20, 1986. Committee members, please state your willingness to read all the finalists, and also state whether or not you are willing to have your name and address included on a list to be distributed only among the members of your committee for purposes of intercommunication. There will be a preliminary vote in May, and the final vote is due July 15. The awards will be announced at the XVIIth Mythopoeic Conference.

Mythlore

All back issues of Mythlore are available. Do you have a complete set? If not, a great wealth of material awaits you. Check the enclosed order form, or ask the Orders Department for one, for a breakdown of prices.

Tolkien Journal

Complete sets of Tolkien Journal, numbers 1-15 (excluding #12, which is the same as Mythlore #5) are available for $23 (plus shipping). See the Order Form.

Mythopoeic Celtic Stationary

by Patrick Wynne

This new stationary is now available for $5 plus $1 in handling. It features four designs, all found in Mythlore 35: The Celtic circles portraying themes from J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and Charles Williams (found on page 3 of Issue 35). Each circle is at the top right of the page and is 3 5/8" in diameter, with a lined border around the page. The fourth design is of the four corners found on page 2 of this issue, but much larger in size. The set includes 4 sheets of each design, making 16 printed sheets, 12 blank second sheets, plus 16 envelopes. The paper is of a neutral but beautifully antique appearing parchment. This would make fine personal stationary for both men and women, as well as for gifts. Send your order to: Orders Department, 1008 N. Monterey St., Alhambra, CA 91801.